

# SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

3/21/06

# MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 907 (Cropsey)

Senate Bill 907 would amend the Revised Judicature Act (RJA) to allow the addition of one judgeship in the Seventh and 49th Judicial Circuits. The Seventh Judicial Circuit consists of Genesee County and currently has nine judges. The 49th Judicial Circuit consists of Mecosta and Osceola Counties and currently has one judge.

• The Senate concurred with the House amendments to SB 907 [RC 153: 37 yes, 0 no].

## **SB 932 (Allen)**

Senate Bill 932 would bring the law concerning bus transportation for school students into conformity with federal laws and rules, as well as with the Michigan Vehicle Code. The bill would enhance the safety and protection of school children by strengthening the school bus inspection program and bringing State law into conformity with Federal safety standards and definitions regarding the design specifications for vehicles used to transport students. Many of the bill's requirements already are in practice, so the bill should not present schools with an undue compliance burden.

- Allan S-2 was adopted.
- The Senate concurred with the House substitute as amended to SB 932 [RC 154: 37 yes, 0 no].

# THIRD READING OF BILLS

SB 971 (Brown) SB 972 (Birkholz)

Sales of other State land with less recreational value and economic potential are subject to thorough review and require legislative authorization. The bills would require proposed State park land sales and transfers to undergo a process including public input, multiple levels of

review, and legislative approval, ensuring that the parks were shielded from misuse as cash reservoirs to address short-term budget woes.

Senate Bill 971 would amend Part 741 (State Parks System) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to do the following: Require the DNR to submit to the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks a proposal regarding the transfer of more than 15% of a State park, and hold a public hearing on the proposed transfer. Require the Committee to review the proposal and make a recommendation to the DNR regarding the proposed transfer. Require the DNR to make a recommendation on the transfer to the Legislature. Prohibit the transfer of more than 15% of a State park's total acreage unless authorized by law. Require the Committee to submit to the Legislature periodic reports on State parks.

- Committee S-3 was not adopted.
- Brown S-5 was adopted.
- SB 971 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Bills.

Senate Bill 972 would amend the General Real Estate Powers Act to prohibit the DNR from designating as surplus land any land within a State park or State recreation area, except as provided in Senate Bill 971.

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- SB 972 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Bills.

## **SB 1044 (Allen)**

Senate Bill 1044 would amend the (Mackinac Island State Park Commission) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to authorize the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to accept gifts, grants, and donations, and to sell real or personal property under its control if all of the following requirements were met: The property was sold for fair market value. -The Commission determined that the property was not of current or potential value to the Commission's statutory purposes. The Commission determined that the sale of the property was in the State's best interest. The sale of the property was not otherwise prohibited by law. The property was zoned residential or commercial and was not contiguous to State park land, if the property were real property.

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- SB 1044 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Bills.

#### SB 1104 (Cropsey)

Senate Bill 1104 would amend the Revised Judicature Act (RJA) to increase the fees for publishing a legal notice or an order, citation, summons, advertisement, or other matter arising out of judicial proceedings required by law to be published in a newspaper. The bill also specifies that The RJA provides that each year for three years, beginning June 1, 1996, the rates must be adjusted by the increase in the rate of inflation, as measured by the Detroit consumer

price index (CPI). Also that each year, beginning June 1, 2007, the rates would have to be adjusted by the increase in the Detroit CPI, and rounded to the nearest multiple of five cents. Max. cost per folio for first insertion, current \$15 new \$20.50.

Max. cost per folio for each subsequent insertion, current \$5.85 new \$8.45.

Min. allowable cost for a notice that must appear at least twice, current \$42.50 new \$59.00. Min. allowable cost for a notice that must appear only once, current \$31.60 new \$44.00.

- Cropsey 1 was adopted.
- SB 1104 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Bills

#### **HB 5508 (Pavlov)**

House Bill 5508 would amend the Motor Fuels Quality Act to do the following: (1) lower the required vapor pressure of gasoline sold in Southeast Michigan counties to 7.0 psi (pounds per square inch); (2) Delete provisions regarding Stage II vapor recovery systems; (3) permit the governor, upon a declaration of an emergency, to suspend vapor pressure requirements; and (4) permit gasoline refiners, distributors, and terminals to petition the Department of Agriculture for a temporary variance from vapor pressure standards.

- Birkholz 1a was adopted.
- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- HB 5508 was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Bills.